

## Devotional and Selections

### THAT WHICH ABIDES.

'Tis true that fragile parchments last,  
That tapestries survive the mould and must;  
And pigments on a canvas still remain  
When they that wrought them are but dust.

But these, too, soon are claimed by time;  
The parchments shrivel, crumble and decay;  
The tapestries with age do fall apart,  
The pigments sear, and blur, and fade away.

One loving act of Mary Magdalene  
Still keeps her in perpetual memory;  
While he who built the pyramids for fame,  
His name is lost to us and lost to history.

Carve not your name on monuments of stone,  
On brazen tablets all your deeds recall;  
For time shall crumble all of these away.  
One deed of LOVE outlives them all.

—John Richard Moreland.

### A GOOD PASTOR BETTER THAN A GREAT PREACHER.

A good pastor is better than a great preacher. An entire stranger may please as a preacher, and yet may possess no qualities whatever for a good pastor. We need great preachers, and yet we must not mistake the pulpit and make it a place for literary essays. Those can be purchased for ten cents at the news stand. People go to church to be edified, and yet better still to be Christianized. Men do not care about preachers discussing political themes of which they are ignorant, nor do they attend church for the purpose of listening to secular subjects, except by way of illustration. People realize their need of counsel for right living, they want to be told their duty toward both God and their fellowmen, and at the same time want to hear that which will not only make them better, but which will also help to encourage and strengthen them. They want the better to know how to live a life that is worth living.

But preaching is only one side of the true minister's life. The pastor, in the eyes of many, is of still greater importance, for as such the minister exercises a peculiar influence and power. What the minister is outside of the pulpit determines to a large degree whether or not those who are in trouble want him. You sometimes hear persons say, "I like my minister in the pulpit and socially, but I don't care for him when I am sick." It is difficult to be both a good preacher and a good pastor, but it is unfortunate to sacrifice the latter for the former. When in trouble is the time persons want some one in whom they can place confidence, one whom they know to be sympathetic and kind-hearted, one who can be touched with the feeling of their infirmities. It is a compliment to be sent for by those who are in trouble, for in health and pleasure almost any one can fit in, but "In trouble, Lord, they call on thee." When death robbed the poor and the widows at Joppa of one who has been dear to them, they sent two men up to Lydda for Peter, and begged him that he come at once to them. They did not send for the village blacksmith to tell them some funny

story, but they wanted a man of God to come and give them comfort. The minister who is kind-hearted and sympathetic can do a wonderful amount of good among his fellowmen in his pastoral relations. Like Peter, he takes the trouble to God in prayer, and leaves the homes of such much as if an angel has been present, shaken his wings, and departed.—L. M. Zimmerman, D.D., in Lutheran Observer.

### THE MARKS OF A MISSIONARY PASTOR.

At the Laymen's Missionary Convention in Toronto, Dr. Gandier, the new principal of Knox College, gave the marks of a missionary pastor as follows:

1. He is intensely interested in missions himself. No man can interest others in a thing in which he is not himself interested, and a congregation soon knows what their minister is really interested in.

2. He regards his whole congregation as a missionary society, whose duty and privilege it is to spread the gospel.

3. He sets and maintains a worthy standard of giving.

4. He gladly obtains and makes use of outside help, visiting missionaries and workers. Some pastors stoutly protect their pulpits from these appeals. They fail to see that, if the congregations were brought into touch with larger things, they will increase gifts in every direction.

5. He keeps his congregation in touch with movements of the age and sees that they are not left out of the providential movements of the times.

6. He introduces the best methods of giving.

7. He has faith in his people and in what they can do. In introducing missionary work the hindrance is often in the pastor and session. When you can get past them there is no trouble with the people.

### A PRAYER AT EVENTIDE.

Into thy hands, O Father, we commit this day. With bodies wearied with the stress of toil and hearts burdened by the weight of cares, we feel the chill shadows of depression and regret fall on our spirits as the mists of evening darken.

Confused and trembling in the gathering gloom, we grope after Thee, for we have stumbled in the rough places where our erring feet have wandered. Gather us, Oh, Father, into the comfort and peace of Thy embrace. May Thy forgiveness heal the wounds our mistakes have made, and Thy compassion overcome the sharpness of our woes.

Rest us and all our dear ones, Father. The long day of labor is ended now, and our change-filled lives give promise of no earthly refuge from the carking cares. Oh, Father, give us rest this night and with the morn, if it be Thy will, may we arise refreshed in body and eager for new service.

In Jesus's name we ask these things, and Thine shall be the glory evermore. Amen.

Truth can not be crushed to earth. Its champions may suffer tortures, they may go to death, but their very agonies so far from driving the truth out of existence will but attract a thousand new recruits for every soldier who falls.